

NEWS JOURNAL

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

JANUARY 2008



LOOKING TO THE PAST-PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



Scott Bracken
District #2

On behalf of the Cottonwood Heights City Council and Staff - I wish everyone a Happy New Year. Beginning a new year is a good time to look at past accomplishments and plan future goals. We accomplished much in 2007. For example:

- In July, Money Magazine identified Cottonwood Heights as one of the Top 100 Cities in the United States for "economic opportunity, good schools, safe streets, things to do, and a sense of community."

Over 2500 mid-size cities were eligible for this designation.

- In November, the city was presented with the GFOA Budget Award. This award is presented to governmental entities that meet the highest standards in financial reporting. Only about 15 cities in the state qualify for this prestigious national award, and due to diligent and professional effort by our Budget and Finance Departments, we qualified the very first year we were eligible.
- The city was chosen as the "Housing Member of the Year" by the Utah Housing Coalition for leading and coordinating the effort to raise and distribute over \$1.2 million in cash, mortgage relief, and other humanitarian services in helping relocate the residents of the Meadows Mobile Home Park. The new owner of the property was a major contributor to this effort.
- We were successful in acquiring almost \$2 million in grants for the Big Cottonwood Canyon

Trail. Work has already begun on this asset to the community and long term plans call for an urban fishery and sandy beach as well

- Efforts to provide more cost effective and enhanced city services continued during 2007. Accomplishments in this regard include: 1) Formation of a new Ordinance Enforcement Division that will begin operation this month. This division will handle animal control services in-house and will triple city code enforcement capabilities for little or no increase over what was paid for these services in 2007. 2) Creation of an in-house computer based Geographic Information System (GIS) Department that will serve citizens in all areas of city government.
- Cottonwood Heights had its first municipal election in 2007. Councilman Thomas and I were re-elected, thus keeping the current city council intact for another two years.

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City Creates Ordinance Enforcement Division

By the time you receive this newsletter the new Ordinance Enforcement Division of Cottonwood Heights city government will be operational. In an effort to hold down costs and to improve efficiency and effectiveness in services to the public, the city has brought Animal Control in-house and merged it into a single Division with Code and Zoning enforcement. Both services will be directed by Kevin Smith, Deputy City Manager.

John Lovato, who has served as the Animal Control Officer in Cottonwood Heights for the past three years as a Salt Lake County employee, will head up the Animal Control and Residential Zoning section of the new Division. The Public Works and Public Zoning enforcement section will be

supervised by Mike Allen who has been functioning as City Public Works Inspector for the past two years.

The Animal Control / Residential Zoning section will be manned by a one and a one-half time employee in addition to the Supervisor, and the Public Works / Public Zoning section will have a half-time employee in addition to the Supervisor.

All Zoning, Code Enforcement, and Animal Control issues will be handled by the new division. Residents with concerns in these areas can contact the appropriate personnel through the "A Better Place..." link on the city's website at www.cottonwoodheights.utah.gov or by calling 545-4169.

Emergency Preparedness Tip for January

Dog may be man's best friend but, due to health regulations; most emergency shelters cannot house animals. Find out in advance how to care for your pet and/or service animal when disaster strikes. Pets should not be left behind, but could be taken to a family member's house, a pre-planned retreat location, or an animal shelter during an emergency. Be sure to store extra food and water for your animals, along with any special medications they require; and don't procrastinate getting an identification tag on your special pet.

CITY INFORMATION:

City Council Members

MAYOR

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DIST# 1 - Gordon M. Thomas

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sbracken@cottonwoodheights.utah.gov

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DIST# 4 - Bruce T. Jones

bjones@cottonwoodheights.utah.gov

CITY MANAGER -

Liane Stillman

lstillman@cottonwoodheights.utah.gov

CITY OFFICES:

1265 E. Fort Union Blvd. #250,
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phone (801) 545-4154

fax (801) 545-4150

CALL DIRECT:

City Manager	545-4160
Deputy City Manager	545-4165
City Planning	545-4172
Recorder	545-4162
Treasurer	545-4175
Finance Director	545-4177
Code Enforcement	545-4169
Customer Service	545-4154
Public Relations	545-4163

To hear the agenda for the next city council meeting call: 545-4155

For the planning commission agenda call 545-4156

For details about the agendas, check our web site:

www.cottonwoodheights.utah.gov

NUMBERS TO KNOW:

Emergency:	911
Sheriff Dispatch:	743-7000
Fire Authority:	743-7200
Animal Control:	269-7499
Justice Court:	273-9731

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POLICE DECISION TO BE MADE

A decision about whether Cottonwood Heights will self-provide police services or remain under contract with the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office is scheduled to be made on Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008, at the regularly scheduled City Council Business Meeting (7:00 p.m. in the council chambers at 1265 East Fort Union, Suite 300).

This question has been studied and debated for over six months. During that time, a feasibility study was contracted and two preliminary reports were given in public meetings, after which, the public was invited to comment. That study is now complete and is available on the city website at www.cottonwoodheights.utah.gov.

There was also a public meeting held at which the Sheriff's Office made a presentation and various citizens expressed concerns about the findings of the feasibility study. They made

arguments in favor of remaining under contract with the county.

Throughout this time, there have been regular reports in the city section of The Valley Journal. A Question and Answer flyer has been mailed to each home in the city and updates have been posted on the city website on an on-going basis. Many emails and phone calls have been received by both council and staff, and the opportunity for such input will continue until the vote is taken.

Council members now feel they have studied in-depth and have received adequate input to make a decision; although, they will allow the public another opportunity to speak at the council meeting on Jan. 8. A vote will be taken that night on a resolution to begin self-providing police services in Cottonwood Heights sometime in 2008.

January Council Schedule

All January city council meetings will be held in the new council chambers, 1265 East Fort Union Blvd., Ste. 300, and are scheduled as follows:

- Monday, January 7 - 11:30 a.m. – Swearing in ceremony for Councilmen Gordon Thomas and Scott Bracken
- Tuesday, January 8 – 7:00 p.m. – Business Meeting will consider Resolution to Self-Provide Police Services (See accompanying article)
- Tuesday, January 22 – 7:00 p.m. – Business Meeting
- Tuesdays, January 8, 15, 22, 29 – 6:00 p.m. - Work Meetings

The public is welcome at all meetings, both work sessions and business meetings. Additional information and agendas are available at: www.cottonwoodheights.utah.gov.

RELAY FOR LIFE KICKOFF SET

Last year's Relay-for-Life held on the Recreation Center fields was a very successful first time effort. Plans for 2008 are to improve the event, the fun, and the success of this nationwide community celebration that raises funds to fight cancer in all its forms.

The 2008 Relay-for-Life will have a Kickoff event on Saturday, January 26, at the Rec. Center at 6 p.m. Free ice skating and refreshments will be available. The Kickoff will provide more information to those planning to participate in the overnight event to be held later in the year. Former and potential participants are invited to join together at the Rec. Center to make plans for an outstanding Relay-for-Life 2008.

SMOKING BAN BEING CONSIDERED

The City Council recently directed City Attorney Shane Topham to propose a City Ordinance that would prohibit outdoor smoking in all public parks, playgrounds and city, county, and recreation center owned property, and at city-sponsored events. They indicated a proposed ordinance is needed as a basis for public discussion on the issue.

It was noted in the discussion that most surrounding cities have such a ban in their city ordinances. Also, the preponderance of evidence being discussed in the media about the dangers of second-hand smoke suggests it's probably time for Cottonwood Heights to take action to protect non-smokers, especially children,

from the health hazards of cigarette smoke polluting the air.

A public hearing will be held on the proposed ordinance prior to consideration and residents are encouraged to contact their council member to voice their opinion on the matter. The proposed ordinance will be available on the city web site sometime in January.



HELP WANTED - GRAPHIC ARTIST

The city is in need of a graphic artist to handle design and layout for the city's Valley Journal insert, in addition to other design publicity and information pieces. The successful candidate must be experienced with newspaper type page layout, and color work, in addition to being able to work from their home and being proficient with email and meeting deadlines. **Contact Linda Dunlavy for information: 545-4162.**



PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

for January, 2008

The following public works projects will be on-going during January:

- Crack sealing is continuing on streets east of Wasatch Blvd and on Fort Union Blvd.
- Installing of new city entry sign at Highland Drive and Creek Road



EVERYONE SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY

No sooner has 2008 started than there are two opportunities for you to become better educated and more proficient on emergency preparedness.

- The RED CROSS CRASH COURSE will be presented at the Cottonwood Heights city office on Thursday, January 17, at 6:00 p.m.
- A 3- DAY CERT COURSE will begin on Saturday, February 9 and run for two more Saturdays, February 16 and 23. Classes will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the 9th and 16th and from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the 23rd.

For either class – CALL SHELLY HANSON AT 545-4154 or email shanson@cottonwoodheights.utah.gov to register.



Sensational Sub-for-Santa

Sherry McConkey, Cottonwood Heights Planning Coordinator, also heads up the city’s annual Sub-for-Santa project. This year, a week before Christmas, she stated, “I can say that thousands of dollars have been spent. Items donated are eye exams, gift cards, gas cards, furniture, game systems, clothes, bicycles, dolls, toys, cleaning supplies, oil changes, toiletries, and this is the tip of the iceberg. Six families have been helped so far and more will be helped.”

What began as a modest attempt to assist two or three families in 2005, the first year of Cottonwood Heights’ existence as a city, has grown in just three years to a major charitable effort from which many contributors and recipients benefit. To date, Dec. 19, sixteen children and eight parents have been provided a bright 2007 Christmas. In addition to the families assisted, truck loads of excess gifts will be delivered to the Children’s Justice Center and The Road Home rehabilitation center, depending on the need at those two institutions.

According to Sherry, “The lesson learned this year is that in 2008 we should probably begin collecting donations in September in order to be organized to meet the need in December.”

The council and staff of Cottonwood Heights thank Sherry for her untiring effort and express appreciation to all who contributed for their generosity and willingness to help provide for those in need.

Thanks to JEIMI WOFFINDEN

Jeimi Woffinden our design and layout artist for the city’s copy in the Valley Journal and all other design and layout required by the city since incorporation is changing her employment. This issue of the News Journal is her last work for Cottonwood Heights.

The city thanks Jeimi for her professionalism and incredible creative talent in preparing messages for you, the residents of Cottonwood Heights. City Manager Liane Stillman stated, “Jeimi has designed everything for Cottonwood Heights, including our logo, street banners, car decals, mailings, Valley Journal pages, and letterhead. Jeimi will be missed.”

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Once again, we take note of the accomplishments of various residents of our city for advancement in their personal and professional lives or efforts made to help others. This month we recognize the following:

David and Andrea Evans gave the Cottonwood Heights Youth City Council (YCC) a check for \$500 raised at a car wash. These funds will be used by the YCC in their on-going effort to contribute to our city in meaningful ways, such as sponsoring public education events. Thanks to the Evans for their efforts on behalf of the youth of our city.

Stan Rosenzweig, a resident of Cottonwood Heights, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross, Greater Salt Lake Area Chapter. In a letter announcing his appointment, Ms. Maxine Margaritis, Chief Executive Officer, stated, “I am delighted to have you serve on our board and am grateful for the leadership and involvement you have already given.... Your role as our Chairman of Volunteers is key to the success of the Chapter and to the important work we do in our community. Thank you for stepping up to the plate.” The city also congratulates Mr. Rosenzweig on his appointment and thanks him for helping make our city a better place to live.

Glenn Symes completed his courses at the “U” where he was awarded a Masters Degree in Public Administration (MPA) with emphasis in Urban Planning. Glenn is a Planner for Cottonwood Heights and has provided outstanding service to the city in his involvement in most new development in our city for the past three years.

Mackenzie Olson was recently recognized as “Ms. Soccer” by the Salt Lake Tribune. We congratulate her on her athletic prowess. She is a senior at Brighton High School and is the daughter of Ken and Jill Olson of Cottonwood Heights.

Mayor Kelvyn Cullimore, Jr’s leadership abilities are being recognized throughout the county as evidenced by three recent appointments. In addition to serving as our mayor, he is now Chair of the Conference of Mayors, Treasurer of the Council of Governments, and chair of the school district interlocal committee. Each of these is a position to which he has been elected by his peers from other cities in the county.



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- Creating a new school district is no small task, and much effort was put forth with our neighbors to get this issue before the voters in November. More information is available in this Valley Journal.
- The city also sponsored numerous major community events - Butlerville Days, Bark in the Park, City Birthday Party, Easter Egg Hunts, Relay for Life, three District Town Meetings, and an Election Issues Forum. We also joined with the Cottonwood Heights Recreation Center in their Thanksgiving Day Run, a tennis tournament, upgrades to Riley England baseball field, the opening of Golden Hills Park, and a summer outdoor movie night.
- We have studied the best method for providing law enforcement to the city for over six months. It's taken our consultant many rewrites, comprehensive study, two

public hearings, and overtime to address issues raised by the council and citizens to get to this point.

- Funding for the Police Services study, as well as our Parks & Recreation Master Plan and a City Center Master Plan were reallocated from a federal grant. Our original intent for the grant was to provide bus benches and shelters in the city; but with the UTA service changes, we were unable to do that project. This opened the way for the money to be spent on the three much needed studies.

As always, if you're interested in learning more or commenting on these plans, go to the city website and sign up for "Notifications." You can choose which items you'd like to receive e-mail notifications about.

Now, to look forward and march forth, we anticipate that 2008 will be another

successful year. Resolution of the law enforcement issue is high on the agenda. The completion of our studies on the City Center Concept and Park & Recreation Master Plans will give us much to do. Roads will still need paving, other public works require attention, and events need to be held. As always, we will continue to look for ways to save money, improve services, and create the best community possible for our citizens. I believe that is our primary responsibility as elected officials. Your support and input are integral to that goal.

CITY ENACTS NEW SHORT-TERM RENTAL ORDINANCE AKA - Ski Rental Ordinance

Following many weeks of study, discussion, and hearings by the Planning Commission and the termination of a six-month moratorium on new short-term rentals that was imposed in June, 2007, the city council accepted the recommendation of the Planning Commission and enacted Municipal Ordinance No. 104, amending and restating the short-term rental code for Cottonwood Heights. Chapter 19.89 of the Cottonwood Heights Code specifies definitions, permit requirements, application and approval process, standards of operation, occupancy limits, fees, violations and penalties, and all other issues dealing with short-term (ski) rentals in Cottonwood Heights.

In explaining the rationale of the Planning Commission to the City Council, City Planning Director Michael Black stated, "During the review of the ordinance, it was found that most complaints about short-term rentals come from single-family housing neighborhoods and focus on parking, noise, and scattered garbage. Two of these items have an impact on public streets and all are a function of how many people are occupying a residence."

He explained that the amended ordinance eliminates short-term rentals from R-1 (single-family zones) and limits them to RM (residential multi-family), RO (residential

office), NC (neighborhood commercial), and R-2-8 zones. Each of these zones allows medium-density housing with PUD or Condominium Associations. The amended ordinance also specifies that a unit cannot have more than 4 bedrooms and total occupancy is limited to 8 adults and 4 children, in addition to being in an appropriate zone. Other requirements include that the owner must maintain a 24 hour/365 day-per-year service to handle issues on the site and they must allow the city to verify ordinance compliance by inspecting.

It should also be noted that, although the moratorium has been lifted, those planning to apply for a permit for a new short-term rental unit must do so by January 31, 2008, at which time, a cap will be placed on the number of units within the boundaries of Cottonwood Heights. This cap will include all current, properly licensed short-term rentals and those approved as a result of their application being properly submitted by January 31, 2008.

A copy of the amended ordinance can be acquired by contacting the Planning Department at 1265 East Fort Union Blvd., Suite 250, or by calling 545-4154 and requesting to speak with someone in the Planning Department.

CITY WEBSITE UPDATE

In an on-going effort to keep the residents of Cottonwood Heights involved in the day-to-day operations of the city and to provide them with an opportunity to give input, it is now possible to give feedback to the city on its Website and to forward city information to friends, neighbors, etc. To give feedback, just click on "Online Services" or go into "A better place..." and follow the instructions. Next time you receive a Notification from the city, scroll to the bottom and click on the "Send to a Neighbor" button and forward the notification you received to someone you think will have interest in that subject matter. Get involved! It's your city.

